

### REF: 412 FAULT FINDING OF WET CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEMS

Wet Central heating systems heat water in a boiler, and then send the water around a circuit of pipes releasing heat through radiators. The boiler will also heat domestic hot water.

There are a number of checks that a non-technical person can make if a wet central heating system is not working properly before technical assistance is called out.

#### No Heating or Insufficient Heating

- Is there water in the system? I.e.: check the feeder tank or check if mains tap is on.
- If your boiler has a pilot light, is it lit?
- Is the electricity supply to the system switched on? (Found usually beside Central Heating Programmer).
- With electricity switched on and the programmer in the 'ON' position can you hear the pump working?
- Is the programmer showing the right time, and in an 'ON' position?
- Is the selected programme set for the central heating function?
- Is the central heating boiler thermostat turned down too low?
- If you have a room thermostat, is it set to the temperature you require? If the room has reached the temperature set on the thermostat, the radiators will cool. The room thermostat will switch off the system. Turning up the room thermostat will bring the heating back on.
- If you have thermostatic radiator valves, are they at the settings that you require?
- If a radiator is hot only at the bottom, you may need to release trapped air, or 'bleed' it. (A special key is required).
- If a radiator is hot only at the top, there may be sludge in the system and it will require to be flushed out.

#### No Hot Water

- If your boiler has a pilot light, is it lit?
- Is the electricity supply to the system switched on? (*Refer to number 4 above*).
- With the electricity switched on and the programmer in the 'ON' position can you hear the pump working?
- Is the programmer showing the right time, and in an 'ON' position for Water Heating?
- Has the Water Heating been 'ON' long enough for the boiler to heat the water?
- If you run water off whilst the programmer is in an 'OFF' position the hot water is not reheated until the next 'ON' period is reached.
- If you have a cylinder thermostat, or a thermostatic valve on the cylinder, is it set at the temperature you require? Recommended temperature 60/65°C or 140/150°F.
- Is the central heating boiler thermostat turned down too low?

#### Mission Statement

SCARF aims to work through partnership to promote sustainable use of energy, eradicate fuel poverty and create sustainable employment and training opportunities.

#### Core Objectives

- + To provide free impartial and accessible energy efficiency advice and information services to help save energy, save cash and help save the environment.
- + To encourage investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy measures and grant take up for property improvements to achieve affordable warmth.
- + To create sustainable employment and training opportunities.

#### SCARF Provides

One Stop Energy Advice Shop offers free impartial advice and information:

- + Energy efficiency in the home, business and the community
- + Renewable energy in the home, business and the community
- + Grants for loft and cavity wall insulation
- + Grants for draughtproofing
- + Grants for central heating
- + Grants for renewable energy installations
- + Paying for fuel and fuel suppliers
- + Choice and operation of heating and hot water systems

#### SCARF also offers:

- + Home visits
- + Home energy checks
- + Presentations and informal training
- + NVQ and City & Guilds Qualifications

May 2005